



Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship

Full or part-time, Unpaid

Ojai Raptor Center is a state and federally-permitted 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of birds of prey and other wildlife and to providing educational programs about wildlife and our shared environment. Ojai Raptor Center is located in Southern California and treats over 1,200 native wildlife yearly, 600-800 of which are birds of prey. While the Ojai Raptor Center specializes in treating birds of prey, we also receive or triage a variety of other native wildlife. About 85 - 90% of our patients are avian species.

REPORTS TO: Animal Care Technicians. May also take direction from the Executive Director, veterinarian, education team and volunteers.

SUMMARY: This wildlife rehabilitation internship is scheduled to run from April/May 2024 through late August 2024. Exact start and end dates are somewhat flexible, depending on the applicant's availability. All applicants interested in wildlife rehabilitation and husbandry of birds of prey are encouraged to apply.

This internship is full-time, approximately 40 hours per week, and will include weekends and possibly holidays. A part-time internship may be negotiable. Preference will be given to interns able to work full-time.

**Housing and transportation are NOT provided.*

Application Deadline is April 1, 2024

Ojai Raptor Center is staffed by one full-time wildlife veterinarian, 2-4 animal care assistants specializing in wildlife rehabilitation, volunteers, and veterinary externs. Wildlife care interns will primarily work under the animal care technicians but may also be supervised by and working with volunteers, veterinary student externs, and the veterinarian.

**Wildlife care interns may be able to observe or assist with veterinary procedures, but this is not guaranteed.*

Wildlife Rehabilitation Interns will gain experience in the following areas:

- Identification of the common wildlife species of Southern California and have some understanding of their natural history.
- Techniques used to restrain wildlife, in particular, birds of prey.
- The husbandry of native Southern California wildlife undergoing rehabilitation, including cleaning cages and feeding species-appropriate diets.
- Oral and injectable medication administration.
- Learn about avian bandaging techniques and tail guard placement.
- Maintain refrigerator and freezer stocks and report when low.
- Observation of the humane euthanasia of non-releasable wildlife.
- Assist with updating patient online records , hard paperwork and band information and keep boards for feeding updated.
- Assist with upkeep of main building/breezeway cleanliness and organization; including main room, med room and hospital, all refrigerators and freezers.
- Assist with maintenance of the rodent breeding room, rodent cleaning and care.
- Interns may interact with the public dropping off animals in need of care.
- Work ORC public events and education programs as needed. Assist supervisors and ED in any tasks that relate to ORC mission.
- Gain knowledge of the important infectious diseases commonly seen in Southern California wildlife. Understand the medical and ethical issues regarding the treatment, rehabilitation, and conservation of wildlife, and the maintenance of non-releasable wildlife in captivity for educational purposes. Understand release criteria of native wildlife undergoing rehabilitation.
- Understand the concept of conservation medicine and the role a wildlife center can play in wildlife
- disease monitoring, ecosystem health, conservation, and public education

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be comfortable with the euthanasia of non-releasable wildlife in order to prevent unnecessary suffering.
- Must undergo onsite training and follow directions closely to work safely with the various species generally encountered at the Center.
- Must be responsible, professional, and able to work and communicate effectively with minimal supervision once training has progressed.
- Ability to work within a positive team environment.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.
- Willing and able to work collaboratively and cooperatively with others to solve problems constructively and resolve conflicts.
- Must demonstrate self-motivation and good interpersonal communication skills.
- Must be able to multi-task and work well under fast-paced and sometimes stressful conditions.
- Willingness and ability to adjust tasks in accordance with changing priorities and deadlines.
- Must be able to provide own housing and transportation reasonably near our location in Ojai, CA.
- Must be able to take direction from supervisors and ED.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:

There is a frequent need to stand, stoop, twist, walk, lift animal crates and other objects - 25 pounds individually, or team lift up to 50 pounds - and stand on a concrete floor for up to 10 hours/day. Will be handling/restraining sick, injured, and orphaned native wild animals; exposure to zoonosis, bites, scratches and other potential injury.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Medium strength demands include exerting 20-50 pounds occasionally, 10- 25 pounds frequently, or up to 10 pounds constantly. Requires handling, using vision and hearing, and talking. Frequently requires standing, fine dexterity, walking, lifting, sitting, reaching, pushing/pulling, balancing, and twisting.

Occasionally requires carrying, kneeling, foot controls, bending, and crouching. Rarely requires climbing. Proficiency in written and spoken English is required.

EEO POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of Ojai Raptor Center to afford equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to their race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, citizen status, veteran

status, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic or status that is protected by federal, state or local law.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- 1) Please complete the online volunteer application on our website and make sure to specify that you are interested in the internship:
<https://www.ojairaptorcenter.org/volunteer>
- 2) Submit the following via email with the Subject line “Internship” to elaine@ojairaptorcenter.org:
 - Current resume and a cover letter
 - Two letters of recommendation
 - Proof of COVID-19 vaccines